

Year 2000 and 2001 Priority Actions

Barker Slough Watershed Restoration - 25

1. General Description of the Action

Implement a watershed management program within the Barker Slough watershed to eliminate to need to curtail deliveries from the North Bay Aqueduct because of elevated TOC leading to disinfection byproducts. This would lead to better health protection for the population receiving water and a more reliable quantity of water.

Solano County Water Agency and the other NBA contractors requested and received \$580,000 from the SWRCB, Proposition 204 funding for the development of a watershed management program to address the drinking water contaminants in the Barker Slough watershed. These contaminants include TOC, pathogens and nutrients, and cattle control near the Barker Slough intake. A Watershed Stakeholders Group was formed to advise the NBA contractors on all aspects of the watershed management program. The tasks included identifying areas that have the greatest impact on raw water quality and designing best management practices (BMPs) that could potentially improve the quality of runoff water and the quality of water in Barker Slough at the pumping plant.

The most suitable BMPs, including both structural and non-structural, will be evaluated in pilot studies. The effectiveness of the BMPs will be ascertained through water quality monitoring. Several property owners have expressed an interest in working with the NBA contractors to study various methods of improving water quality and several site visits have been conducted. A watershed management plan will be cooperatively developed based on the evaluation of BMPs in the pilot study.

2. Cost Estimates

Some selected implementation for the 2000 can be accomplished for be about \$800,000. Subsequent implementation would cost about the same each year for 5 - 10 years.

CALFED staff involvement would be limited in this program. However, CALFED staff should examine the BMPs developed through this program for possible implementation elsewhere in the Delta and through the State Water Project. Participating in the program combined with compiling these BMPs for more general distribution could take a month or two of staff time.

3. Program Administration and Governance

The CALFED Water Quality Program should oversee the scope of the early implementation. DWR should oversee contracting and funding. The USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service could be the contract administrator in lieu of DWR if necessary.

4. Program Coordination

The Department of Water Resources could coordinate the contracting and funding of different implementation aspects of the BMPs.

5. Schedule

The funding for BMP development has been let and BMPs should be forthcoming. Implementation of the BMPs in large pilot scale and watershed implementation should begin in the spring of 2000. Further implementation will continue over the next 5-10 years, depending on success of the program.